

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-7. **(Canceled)**

8. **(Currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition for the delivery of a therapeutic agent comprising:

(A) a therapeutic agent; and

(B) an effective amount of a protein or peptide selected from the group consisting of rotavirus VP8 protein,[[;]] one or more peptide(s) derived from VP8,[[;]] ~~a fusion protein or fusion peptide comprising VP8 protein or a peptide derived from VP8; and or a mixture~~[[s]] thereof, wherein said protein or peptide induces opening of tight junctions between epithelial or endothelial cells, thereby enhancing ~~wherein said protein or peptide enhances~~ passage of said therapeutic agent through epithelia and endothelia.

9. **(Previously presented)** The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said composition is an oral dosage composition.

10. **(Withdrawn)** The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said composition is a nasal dosage composition.

11. **(Withdrawn)** The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said composition is a cutaneous dosage composition.

12. **(Withdrawn)** The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said composition is a vaginal dosage composition.

13. **(Withdrawn)** The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said composition is a rectal dosage composition.

14. **(Withdrawn)** The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said composition is in the form of an aerosol dosage composition.

15. **(Withdrawn)** The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said composition is an intravenous dosage composition.

16. **(Previously presented)** The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein said therapeutic agent is a drug, a peptide with biological activity, a vaccine, or any composition that is not adequately absorbed by the transcellular route.

17.-21. **(Canceled)**

Application No.: 10/540,843
Filing Date: May 18, 2006

22. **(Original)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16, wherein said biologically active peptide is selected from the group consisting of a hormone, lymphokine, globulin and albumin.

23. **(Original)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 22, wherein said hormone is selected from the group consisting of testosterone, nandrolene, menotropins, insulin and urofolltropin.

24.-30. **(Canceled)**

31. **(Original)** The pharmaceutical composition of claim 8, wherein said the therapeutic agent is insulin.

32.-42. **(Canceled)**

43. **(Previously presented)** The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 8 further comprising an acceptable pharmaceutical vehicle.

44. **(Canceled)**

45. **(Previously presented)** The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 8, wherein said one or more peptide(s) derived from VP8 consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 or SEQ ID NO: 7.

46. **(New)** The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 8, wherein said VP8 protein consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.